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CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

**JAN 22 2008**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

- 1 1. (currently amended) A method of operating a mobile node having a network layer  
2 and a plurality of network interfaces, each with a respective device driver, the method  
3 comprising the steps of:  
4 transmitting communications from the network layer to any of the network  
5 interfaces by way of a multi-interface driver capable of communication with the  
6 respective device driver corresponding to each respective network interface; and  
7 switching from a first one of the network interfaces to a second one of the  
8 network interfaces by changing the one of the plurality of device drivers with which the  
9 multi-interface driver communicates, while hiding the switching from the network layer.
- 1 2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising communicating between a  
2 virtual interface and the network layer by way of the multi-interface driver, the virtual  
3 interface presenting the appearance of always being an active interface to the network  
4 layer, regardless of which network interface is being used at a given time.
- 1 3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the virtual interface provides a source  
2 address to the network layer to be used in data packets transmitted by the mobile node.
- 1 4. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 selecting the second one of the network interfaces, based on a signal strength of  
3 each network interface and a user priority assigned to each network interface.
- 1 5. (currently amended) A method of operating a mobile node, comprising the steps  
2 of:

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3 identifying at least two available interfaces for communications by the mobile  
4 node;  
5 determining a plurality of characteristics of each of the network interfaces,  
6 wherein the characteristics for each network interface include a signal strength value and  
7 a user priority value;  
8 selecting one of the network interfaces based on the ~~plurality of~~ characteristics of  
9 the respective network interfaces, wherein a weight applied to the user priority value for  
10 each network interface depends on the respective signal strength for the network  
11 interface; and  
12 communicating by way of the selected network interface.

1 6. (original) A method according to claim 5, wherein the mobile node is  
2 communicating by way of a current network interface connection other than the selected  
3 network interface, the method further comprising:  
4 establishing a connection between the mobile node and the selected network  
5 interface; and  
6 maintaining the current network interface connection until after the connection  
7 between the mobile node and the selected network interface is established.

7. (cancelled)

1 8. (currently amended) The method of claim [[7]] 5, wherein:  
2 the mobile node is currently communicating by way of a current network interface  
3 connection, and  
4 the score is calculated by applying a higher weight coefficient to the signal  
5 strength of the current network interface connection than a weight coefficient applied to  
6 the signal strength of any other available network interface.

9. (cancelled)

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1 10. (currently amended) The method of claim [[9]] 5, wherein a weight coefficient of  
2 zero is applied to the user priority value for each network interface having a signal  
3 strength below a respective threshold value for that network interface.

1 11. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein:  
2 the mobile node is currently communicating by way of a current network interface  
3 connection, and  
4 the threshold value for the current network interface connection is lower than the  
5 threshold value for other network interfaces.

1 12. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 automatically selecting the second network interface based on predefined criteria;  
3 displaying an identification of the automatically selected interface;  
4 receiving a manual override instruction from a user identifying a selection of the  
5 second network by the user; and  
6 switching to the network selected by the user.

1 13. (withdrawn) A method of operating a mobile node having an IPsec layer,  
2 comprising the steps of:  
3 establishing an IPsec session between the mobile node and a virtual private  
4 network/IPsec gateway by way of a first network;  
5 switching from the first network to a second network without disturbing the IPsec  
6 session, the switching being effected using mobile IP at a lower layer than the IPsec  
7 layer; and  
8 hiding the switching from the IPsec layer by providing a fake MAC layer address  
9 of a default router to the IPsec layer, and rewriting MAC layer headers in incoming and  
10 outgoing packets in an intermediate driver with correct MAC layer addresses.

1 14. (original) A mobile node comprising:  
2 a plurality of network interfaces, each with a respective device driver;  
3 a network layer;

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4 a multi-interface driver capable of communication with each network interface by  
5 way of the respective device driver for that network interface, the multi-interface driver  
6 handling communications from the network layer to any of the network interfaces;  
7 the multi-interface driver switching from a first one of the network interfaces to a  
8 second one of the network interfaces by changing the one of the plurality of device  
9 drivers with which the multi-interface driver communicates, while hiding the switching  
10 from the network layer.

1 15. (original) The mobile node of claim 14, further comprising a virtual interface in  
2 communication with the network layer by way of the multi-interface driver, the virtual  
3 interface presenting the appearance of always being an active interface to the network  
4 layer, regardless of which device driver is being used at a given time.

1 16. (original) The mobile node of claim 15, wherein the virtual interface provides a  
2 source address to the network layer to be used in data packets transmitted by the mobile  
3 node.

1 17. (original) The mobile node of claim 14, further comprising:  
2 means for selecting the second one of the network interfaces, based on a signal  
3 strength of each network interface and a user priority assigned to each interface.

1 18. (currently amended) A mobile node, comprising:  
2 at least two available network interfaces for communications by the mobile node;  
3 interface detection means for determining a plurality of characteristics of each of  
4 the network interfaces, wherein the characteristics of each network interface include a  
5 signal strength value and a user priority value;  
6 means for selecting one of the network interfaces based on the ~~plurality of~~  
7 characteristics[[,]] of the respective network interfaces, wherein a weight applied to the  
8 user priority value for each network interface depends on the respective signal strength  
9 for the network interface;  
10 wherein the mobile node communicates by way of the selected network interface.

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19. (cancelled)

1 20. (original) The mobile node of claim 18, wherein the selecting means includes  
2 hysteresis.

1 21. (withdrawn) A mobile node, comprising:  
2 a network layer;  
3 an IPSec driver below the network layer;  
4 an intermediate driver below the IPSec driver;  
5 at least one network interface to and from which the intermediate driver sends and  
6 receives packets,  
7 wherein the intermediate driver includes means for switching from a first network  
8 to a second network, without disturbing an ongoing IPSec session, the switching being  
9 effected using mobile IP at a lower layer than the IPSec layer, and  
10 the intermediate driver hides the switching from the IPSec layer by providing a  
11 fake MAC layer address of a default router to the IPsec layer, and rewrites MAC layer  
12 headers in incoming and outgoing packets with correct MAC layer addresses.

1 22. (currently amended) A computer readable medium encoded with computer  
2 program code, wherein, when the code is executed by a processor, the processor performs  
3 a method of operating a mobile node having a network layer and a plurality of network  
4 interfaces, each with a respective device driver, the method comprising the steps of:  
5 transmitting communications from the network layer to any of the network  
6 interfaces by way of a multi-interface driver capable of communication with the  
7 respective device driver corresponding to each respective network interface; and  
8 switching from a first one of the network interfaces to a second one of the  
9 network interfaces by changing the one of the plurality of device drivers with which the  
10 multi-interface driver communicates, while hiding the switching from the network layer.

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1 23. (currently amended) A computer readable medium encoded with computer  
2 program code, wherein, when the code is executed by a processor, the processor performs  
3 a method of operating a mobile node, comprising the steps of:  
4 identifying at least two available network interfaces for communications by the  
5 mobile node;  
6 determining a plurality of characteristics of each of the network interfaces,  
7 wherein the characteristics of each network interface include a signal strength value and a  
8 user priority value;  
9 selecting one of the network interfaces based on the plurality of characteristics of  
10 the respective network interfaces, wherein a weight applied to the user priority value for  
11 each network interface depends on the respective signal strength for the network  
12 interface; and  
13 communicating by way of the selected network interface.

1 24. (withdrawn) A computer readable medium encoded with computer program code,  
2 wherein, when the code is executed by a processor, the processor performs a method of  
3 operating a mobile node having an IPsec layer, comprising the steps of:  
4 establishing an IPsec session between the mobile node and a virtual private  
5 network/IPsec gateway by way of a first network;  
6 switching from the first network to a second network without disturbing the IPsec  
7 session, the switching being effected using mobile IP at a lower layer than the IPsec  
8 layer; and  
9 hiding the switching from the IPsec layer by providing a fake MAC layer address  
10 of a default router to the IPsec layer, and rewriting MAC layer headers in incoming and  
11 outgoing packets in an intermediate driver with correct MAC layer addresses.

1 25. (withdrawn) A method of selecting a Wi-Fi network from a plurality of Wi-Fi  
2 networks, each Wi-Fi network having an associated ESSID, the method comprising the  
3 steps of:  
4 receiving an input indicating a selection of a complete ESSID, an ESSID prefix,  
5 or a request for any available Wi-Fi network; and

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6 automatically selecting:  
7 the Wi-Fi network associated with the complete ESSID, if the input indicates the  
8 complete ESSID,  
9 one of the Wi-Fi networks associated with an ESSID having the ESSID prefix if the input  
10 indicates selection of the ESSID prefix, or  
11 one of the available Wi-Fi networks if the input indicates a request for any available Wi-  
12 Fi network,  
13 wherein the automatic selecting step is based on at least one of the group  
14 consisting of signal strength in each Wi-Fi network, priority of each Wi-Fi network,  
15 number of clients in each Wi-Fi network, and frame error rate in each Wi-Fi network, if  
16 the input indicates selection of the ESSID prefix or any available Wi-Fi network.

1 26. (withdrawn) The method of claim 25, wherein the input is one of the group  
2 consisting of data from a profile configuration and data manually entered by a user.